

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

UNCLAS BANGKOK 10756

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: FALL SEMINAR ON "INFLATION"

STATE FOR CU

1. POST PLANNING LATE OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER TWO-DAY SEMINAR ON GLOBAL INFLATION AS FOURTH IN SERIES OF USIS-APSPONSORED SEMINARS ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE FOR SELECT GROUP OF TWENTY TO THIRTY THAI ECONOMISTS FROM PRIVATE, GOVERNMENT AND ACADEMIC SECTORS.

2. LIKE MANY OTHER ECONOMIES THAT HAVE SUCCEEDED IN HOLDING DOWN INFLATION DURING RECENT YEARS, THAILAND FINDS ITSELF IN POSITION OF DEALING WITH NEAR RUNAWAY INFLATION THAT MAY FORCE MAJOR ADJUSTMENTS IN THE NATION'S DEVELOPMENT PLANS. THE TREND HAS ALREADY BROUGHT SERIOUS PRESSURE UPON THE RTG IN THE FORM OF LABOR UNREST AND COMPLAINTS FROM UPCOUNTRY FARMERS.

WHILE AMERICAN SCHOLARS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CERTAINLY HAVE YET TO FIND SATISFACTORY ANTIDOTE TO INFLATION, SEVERAL OF OUR PREVIOUS SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS HAVE INDICATED THEY COULD BENEFIT
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FROM DISCUSSION WITH U.S. ECONOMISTS ON THE TOPIC. OF COURSE,

OBJECT OF SEMINAR WOULD BE DIALOGUE ON INFLATION AND NOT PRESCRIPTION FOR SOLUTION OF INFLATION HERE. NOR WOULD PURPOSE BE TO INSTRUCT THAI ECONOMISTS ON HOW TO LEARN TO LIVE WITH HIGH LEVEL OF INFLATION. RATHER, U.S. AND THAI PARTICIPANTS MIGHT DISCUSS HOW ECONOMIES SUCH AS THAILAND'S MIGHT RETURN TO MORE TOLERABLE LEVEL OF INFLATION.

3. PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT US THAT FOLLOWING INGREDIENTS ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESSFUL SEMINAR:

- A. TOPIC OF MUTUAL CONCERN TO THAI AND U.S. ECONOMIES.
- B. TWO EMINENT AMERICAN ECONOMISTS -- ONE OF WHOM SHOULD HAVE EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE WITH LDC ECONOMIES, PREFERABLY IN ASIA -- AS SPEAKERS.
- C. SEMINAR FORMAT THAT PROVIDES FOR THAI AS WELL AS AMERICAN SPEAKERS.
- D. ARTICLES ON TOPIC MADE AVAILABLE TO PARTICIPANTS IN ADVANCE OF SEMINAR.

4. POST REQUESTS AGENCY AND OR CU IDENTIFY ECONOMISTS WILLING AND ABLE TO SPEAK ON TOPIC FOR POSSIBLE STAG GRANTS. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ADDRESSEE POSTS' RESPONSE TO PROPOSAL.
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